

Argument Against Proposition 80

Proposition 80 is a high-risk approach that could hurt consumers, the environment and the state's economy. This deeply flawed measure will undermine the security of state energy supplies, undercut the availability of affordable electricity and undercut the construction of environmentally-friendly renewable energy generation from wind, solar, and geothermal resources.

It will sharply restrict consumer choice about who we buy our electricity from and how much we pay for services. It could well lead us down the road toward another serious energy crisis. That's because Proposition 80 is the wrong way to make energy policy for California.

Reinventing California's energy system through the initiative process, without public hearings is too great a risk to take. Instead, this critical issue should be addressed carefully through public hearings that involve all affected parties, including the state Utility and Energy Commissions, consumer groups, and small business associations.

Because Proposition 80 takes away energy choices and price competition, energy cost savings will be limited or lost for many of California's vital institutions such as community colleges, the University of California and the State University systems, local school districts, hospitals, and city and county governments. Taxpayers, students, teachers, and patients will ultimately pay for these higher energy costs.

PROPOSITION 80 TAKES AWAY THE RIGHT OF CONSUMERS AND BUSINESSES TO CHOOSE AN ENERGY SUPPLIER THAT CAN SAVE MONEY. Just when California needs more jobs and investments in our infrastructure to help our economy, Proposition 80 sends the wrong signal of uncertainty and risk. Proposition 80 takes away an energy choice that often attracts high paying jobs and new investment.

Proposition 80 would make it extremely difficult to improve the State's standards for generating electricity from renewable sources, which could seriously undermine adoption of wind, solar, and geothermal technologies. Growth of California's green businesses could be placed at risk.

Electricity regulation is too risky to be addressed through the initiative process. Flaws in this measure will be very difficult or impossible to fix. Proposition 80 is bad policy because it:

- Restricts energy choices for all consumers, big and small.
- Limits the market for increasing solar, wind, and geothermal energy resources—even if demanded by consumers.
- Threatens to increase the cost of energy for community colleges, the University of California and State University systems, hospitals, and local governments that will end up being paid by taxpayers.
- Discourages future jobs and business investment in California.
- Destabilizes the current progress toward a secure energy future for California.

Proposition 80 IS A HIGH RISK PROPOSITION THAT WILL HURT CONSUMERS AND THE ENVIRONMENT. Vote NO on Proposition 80.

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Rebuttal to Argument Against Proposition 80

The opponents' argument makes the case *FOR* Proposition 80. They want to bring back deregulation by calling it consumer choice!

The first round of deregulation also emphasized "consumer choice." The "choice" for consumers was higher rates, market manipulation, and rolling blackouts.

Deregulation brought a reliable electric system to its knees. It allowed traders to manipulate the market. Enron signed up the University of California—and then walked away. The State was forced into expensive long-term contracts to clean up the mess! *And ordinary consumers had no real choices.*

Proposition 80 reins in deregulation and ensures that electricity providers are accountable in the future. *That's the number one reason you should vote for it.*

The opponents' other claims are simply wrong.

Renewables? Proposition 80 not only speeds up from 2017 to 2010 the deadline for purchasing 20% of our energy needs from renewables, it *repeals the existing legal limit on utilities' purchases of renewables*. How can that be bad for renewable energy?

Misuse of the initiative process? Major provisions of Proposition 80 passed the Legislature but were vetoed at the urging of energy company lobbyists. This is exactly what the initiative process was designed for.

Competition? Proposition 80 embraces competition between independent generators and utilities to build power plants at the lowest cost to consumers.

Don't be swayed by fear tactics from the energy companies! We've had enough failure. Proposition 80 will stabilize the electrical system, avoid blackouts, bring rates down, and benefit all Californians.

Vote YES on Proposition 80.

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